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**Grand Bargain Workstream 6: Participation Revolution**

**Summary Text September 2019**

**A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives**

The Grand Bargain states that *‘It is necessary to include the people affected by humanitarian crises and their communities in our decisions to be certain that the humanitarian response is relevant, timely, effective and efficient.*

*To do so, it is important to provide accessible information, ensure that an effective process for participation and feedback is in place and that design and management decisions are responsive to the views of affected communities and people. Donors and aid organisations should work to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable groups considering gender, age, ethnicity, language and special needs are heard and acted upon.*

*This will create an environment of greater trust, transparency and accountability. The following commitments will help promote the Core Humanitarian Standard and the IASC Commitments to Accountability to Affected Populations.*’

**Aid organisations and donors committed to:**

1. Improve leadership and governance mechanisms at the level of the humanitarian country team and cluster/sector mechanisms to ensure engagement with and accountability to people and communities affected by crises.
2. Develop common standards and a coordinated approach for community engagement and participation, with the emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable, supported by a common platform for sharing and analysing data to strengthen decision-making, transparency, accountability and limit duplication.
3. Strengthen local dialogue and harness technologies to support more agile, transparent but appropriately secure feedback.
4. Build systematic links between feedback and corrective action to adjust programming.

**Donors committed to:**

1. Fund flexibly to facilitate programme adaptation in response to community feedback.
2. Invest time and resources to fund these activities.
3. Ensure that, by the end of 2017, all humanitarian response plans – and strategic monitoring of them - demonstrate analysis and consideration of inputs from affected communities.

**GB Workstream 6: Participation Revolution seeks to integrate meaningful participation[[1]](#footnote-1) in practice.** **It seeks to support permanent and sustainable change in the way we do business, promote the link between effective participation and the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian response and promote the evidence that participation is happening at the agency level through Grand Bargain Annual reporting**

GB Workstream 6 views systematic accountability and inclusion as essential to meeting organizational and collective standards and commitments, including the IASC CAAP and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). Coherent linkages between GB Workstream 6 and IASC Results Group 2 are evidenced through complementary approaches to *agency[[2]](#footnote-2)-level* actions (primarily GB Workstream 6) and *collective-level* change (primarily RG2).

GB Workstream 6 therefore focuses on agency and project efforts; leveraging the Grand Bargain’s ability to influence a broader stakeholder group toward transformative change and use the Grand Bargain’s annual reporting cycle to capture and promote best practice at the Donor and Agency/NGO level, while complementing collective response-wide reporting gathered by OCHA and IASC RG 2 in relation to Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO).

We note that the good practices to achieve the GB Participation Revolution collective commitments for aid organizations, as outlined in the *Success Indicators* section 2, are largely operationalized by the IASC Results Group 2, making the IASC and Grand Bargain highly complementary in the effort to drive transformative change.

**Appendix 1:**

**IASC Results Group 2: Accountability and Inclusion**

**Summary Text.**

**RG2 on Accountability and Inclusion is a service for humanitarian leaders and responders providing response-wide guidance, tools and technical support for making humanitarian responses and aid workers more accountable to affected communities, ensuring people, especially those most at risk are at the center of, and driving humanitarian action.**

The IASC views systematic accountability and inclusion as essential to meeting organizational and collective standards and commitments, including the Grand Bargain and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). Coherent linkages between the Grand Bargain Workstream 6 (Participation Revolution) and RG2 are evidenced through complementary approaches to *agency-level* actions (primarily GB Workstream 6) and *collective-level* change (primarily RG2). RG2 provides a service package across humanitarian response and the nexus, while Workstream 6 focuses on agency and project efforts; leveraging the Grand Bargain’s ability to influence a broader stakeholder group toward transformative change.

The [Results Group](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-groups) supports humanitarian leaders and respondersin demonstrating transformational change through collective approaches to accountability and inclusion in overall response efforts including enabling people to address sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and the meaningful participation of all community members in all stages of the humanitarian program cycle. In doing so, it considers persons with disabilities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender, age and other important distinctions.

*Priority areas of support to humanitarian leadership:*

1. Humanitarian responses continuously informed & adapted through active participation of affected populations;
2. Bringing regional and national voices into global policy and practice, strengthening accountability and inclusion;
3. Protection from and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH) is improved;
4. Accessible service package on accountability and inclusion available through a global platform; and
5. International standards on accountability and inclusion applied in full.
1. Note that the definition of Participation used by the workstream was agreed on March 8th 2017 and is available [here](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/participation_revolution_-_definition_of_participation.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This document uses the term ‘Agency’ to refer to UN operational agencies such as UNHCR or WFP, INGOs, Local NGOs and all other Aid Organizations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)